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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Quadrennial reports, 1988-1991

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GLOBAL COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION
AND DEVELOPMENT

(Category II)

The Global Committee is a non-profit action-oriented organization that provides information and organizational resources to parliamentarians promoting integral human development, especially in the areas of population, development, environment, and the welfare of women and children.

Established in 1982, the Global Committee acts as a liaison for national parliamentary groups on population and development and their five regional organizations, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the Inter-American Parliamentary Group, the Africa Parliamentary Council, the Arab Adhoc Committee and the European Adhoc Committee.

Africa: Botswana, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe;

Arab region: Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia;

Asia and the Pacific: Australia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam;

Europe: France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom;

Western hemisphere: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America. A subregional group in the Caribbean includes Barbados, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.

Through the Global Committee and its regional affiliates, parliamentarians are linked with international organizations that implement population and development programmes. They include UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The Global Committee takes no policy position on population issues. Its aim is to help parliamentarians develop policies appropriate to their own national political and cultural circumstances.

Initial support for the Global Committee was provided by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the World Bank, and several private donors from Japan and the United States. Today, it undertakes joint programmes with United Nations agencies and international development aid organizations of several national Governments. It also receives support from private sectors. Donor Governments, United Nations agencies and private foundations each provide approximately one third of the Global Committee's funding.

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In addition to the Economic and Social Council, the Global Committee has consultative status with UNICEF and the United Nations Department of Public Information, and is a member of the UNFPA NGO Committee.

Since 1982, the Global Committee has extended its parliamentary network on population and development to every region of the world, chiefly through the support of international and regional conferences and workshops. All of the activities of the Global Committee were undertaken in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF; some also received support and cooperation from Habitat, UNHCR, UNESCO and UNEP.

Activities undertaken between 1988 and 1991

April 1988, Oxford, England - The First Global Survival Conference of 100 parliamentarians and 100 spiritual leaders from 52 countries established a unique dialogue on the most critical issues facing humankind.

July 1988, Gaborone, Botswana - Parliamentary-Media Workshop on Africa's Children - one of the many series of parliamentary workshops on child survival organized in collaboration with UNICEF. The Botswana meeting was the first ever to invite news media as full delegates.

February 1989, Manila, Philippines - Fifth Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development.

March 1989, Africa - A group of Japanese young business leaders visited Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe in a study mission which included meetings with parliamentarians and which was arranged by the Global Committee and the Africa Parliamentary Council in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF. Result: an agro-economic training and information centre based in Zambia.

March 1989, Washington, D.C. - Five members of the Global Committee, from the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe, testified before the United States Congress on the interrelationship of population, food, the deteriorating natural resource base and the debt crisis.

August 1989, Côte d'Ivoire - Africa Parliamentary Council's Leadership Education Workshop on Population and Development for French-Speaking African Parliamentarians.

September 1989, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic - Second Arab Parliamentary Conference, organized by the Arab Parliamentary Union and the Global Committee and sponsored by UNDP and UNFPA. The participants established a special subcommittee to deal with critical population and development issues, the environment, food and water security in the Arab region.

October 1989, Bridgetown, Barbados - Legislators from 20 Caribbean nations and territories held a three-day symposium on the needs and rights of children.

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It was sponsored by UNICEF in collaboration with the Global Committee and the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and hosted by the Barbados chapter of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

January 1990, Moscow - Parliamentarians attended the Global Forum on Environment and Development.

March 1990, New Delhi, India - The Asian Women Parliamentarians Conference, sponsored by UNFPA.

March 1990, Quito, Ecuador - Second Western Hemisphere Parliamentary Conference.

October 1990, Bangkok, Thailand - Third General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.

February 1991, Seoul, Republic of Korea - Seventh Asian Parliamentarians Meeting, which reviewed the Asian population agenda against the Bangkok Declaration which emanated from the Asian Forum Conference in 1990.

June 1991, Jakarta, Indonesia - National workshop attended by parliamentarians and spiritual leaders to focus on the impact of religion on environment.

August 1991 - Asian parliamentary study mission to Latin America, arranged in cooperation with the Asian Forum and the Inter-American Parliamentary Group.

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WORLD COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

(Category II)

The principles and mandate of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples are to support fully the objectives and activities of the United Nations, and particularly to the human rights organs, such as the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and the specialized agencies such as UNESCO, the ILO and WHO, through its regional affiliate, the Pan American Health Organization.

WCIP has conducted numerous conferences and seminars on a variety of issues concerning the work of the United Nations in different regions of the world. The information it has disseminated has always included the United Nations resolutions and plans of action which directly affect the lives of indigenous peoples.

Under the five-year plan of action developed by the organization, its activities fall into the following areas: socio-economic development, advocacy of indigenous rights, resolution of conflicts, dissemination and exchange of information and special attention to programmes related to the quincentennial of the voyage of Columbus, environmental concerns and gender participation.

Commission on Human Rights

WCIP has sponsored various delegates attending the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. Its participation is dedicated to follow-up procedures on the report of the Subcommission and country focus on violations of human rights. It contributes on an annual basis as well by providing information to interested countries such as Canada, which conducts consultations with national and international non-governmental organizations.

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

The organization participates actively in the annual proceedings of the Subcommission by sponsoring regional delegates to further their concerns and discussions with the experts attending the sessions.

Working Group on Indigenous Populations

WCIP has participated in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations by providing verbal and written submissions on the topics of their agenda with specific suggestions on the first draft of the declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and calling the United Nations

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to declare the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, on the theme "The new relationships between indigenous peoples and nation States".

WCIP has supported the efforts of the Working Group and has expressed its interest in the end of this phase in order for Governments to express their opinions widely on the declaration of principles.

International Labour Organisation

Considerable time has been devoted to the revision of Convention 107 concerning indigenous and tribal peoples in independent countries and leading up to the adoption of Convention 169 in 1989 by the General Conference of the ILO. To that end, WCIP coordinated various seminars and workshops to provide information necessary for the revision and to make recommendations on the language expected in the final version. WCIP has also consulted with the ILO on the ratification of Convention 169 in various countries. By December 1991, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico and Norway had ratified it.

UNESCO

The activities of 1992 in relation to the so-called discovery of America, or "encounter of the two worlds", have given WCIP an opportunity to cooperate directly with UNESCO on a parallel basis with its programme "Amerindia '92". It co-sponsored a process in which conferences were planned for 1991 and 1992, in cooperation with the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (Montreal), and with the participation of indigenous organizations from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

The first conference was held with great success in November, in Ottawa-Hull, Canada, under the title "Strengthening of the spirit". A follow-up conference is expected to take place in Mexico to formulate possibilities of direct dialogue between nation States and indigenous peoples.

International seminars

The Vice-President of WCIP participated in a United Nations seminar in January 1989 on the effects of racist and racial discrimination and the social and economic relations between indigenous peoples and States. The seminar produced important recommendations, and for the first time a special rapporteur came from an indigenous non-governmental organization.

The President of WCIP attended the meeting of experts, who met to review the experience of countries in the operation of schemes of internal self-government for indigenous peoples (Nuuk, Greenland, 18-24 September 1991).

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WCIP sent delegates to the preparatory committee meetings of the World Council on Human Rights and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992).

The President and delegates from North America participated in the annual conferences of the Department of Public Information at United Nations Headquarters.

Regional organizations

WCIP provides support to the efforts of the Organization of American States to bring forward juridical instruments pertaining to the rights of indigenous peoples.

The President of WCIP has participated in the development of a plan of action within the Pan American Health Organization to attend to the needs of indigenous peoples.

The President has been active in supporting the Guadalajara Declaration of the Ibero-American presidents and the deliberations leading to the establishment of a regional fund for the support of indigenous peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

WCIP continues to sponsor Inuit delegates from Alaska at the annual meetings of the International Whaling Commission which determines hunting quotas for the protection of whales.

WCIP held its sixth General Assembly in Tromsø, Norway, and welcomed the message given by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights.

WCIP has been elected to the Board of the Conference of NGOs with Consultative Status at the Economic and Social Council.
